

that guns kill more children between the ages of 10 and 19 than any other cause except car accidents. In 2002, the most recent data available, guns killed 2,867 children under 19 years old. Tragically, that means an average of nearly 8 children are killed by guns each day. Additionally, the CDF estimates that at least four times as many children are injured in non-fatal shootings.

The number of firearms deaths among American children is greater than any other nation in the world. In fact, the Children's Defense Fund states in its 2005 annual report that the rate of deaths among children under 15 years old is higher in the United States than in 25 other industrialized nations combined. While the gun violence epidemic in this country cannot simply be legislated away, Congress must do more to address the problem.

The Children's Defense Fund makes a number of recommendations to protect children from gun violence. Among other things, the CDF suggests removing guns from homes, providing non-violent conflict resolution courses for all students, and creating positive community activities for children to reduce the influence of gangs and drugs on children and teenagers. Congress can take an active role in these efforts by taking up and passing common sense gun safety legislation, supporting federal funding for law enforcement and community programs, and focusing the media and public attention on the causes and consequences of gun violence.

During recent sessions of Congress, very little has been done to reduce the prevalence of gun violence. In 2004, inaction by President Bush and the Republican leadership in Congress led to the expiration of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban. In 2005, Congress passed, and the President signed, National Rifle Association-sponsored legislation that provided blanket immunity from liability to reckless and negligent gun dealers and manufacturers. While doing so, Congress repeatedly cut Federal funding for proven local law enforcement programs and failed to close the gun show loophole.

As we begin the second session of the 109th Congress, I am hopeful greater attention will be paid to finding solutions to the gun violence problems that plague our communities. We owe it to the thousands of families who have already been impacted by firearms tragedies to help prevent such things from happening to others.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United

States submitting sundry nominations and a withdrawal which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 28, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS, of Virginia) has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 2167. An act to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to extend the sunset of certain provisions of that Act and the lone wolf provision of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 to July 1, 2006.

H.R. 2863. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3010. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4525. An act to temporarily extend the programs under the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4579. An act to amend title I of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend by one year provisions requiring parity in the application of certain limits to mental health benefits.

H.R. 4635. An act to reauthorize the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families block grant program through March 31, 2006, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of December 22, 2005, the enrolled bills were signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) during the adjournment of the Senate, on December 28, 2005.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of January 4, 2005, the Secretary of the Senate, on December 30, 2005, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS, of Virginia) has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 972. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1815. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2017. An act to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domes-

tic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3179. An act to reauthorize and amend the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Act of 1994.

H.R. 3402. An act to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal years 2006 through 2009, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4501. An act to amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920, to authorize the Secretary of State to establish and collect a surcharge to cover the costs of meeting the increased demand for passports as a result of actions taken to comply with section 7209(b) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004.

H.R. 4637. An act to make certain technical corrections in amendments made by the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Under the authority of the order of December 22, 2005, the enrolled bills were signed by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. ALLEN) during the adjournment of the Senate, on December 30, 2005.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 22, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 205. An act to authorize the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish in the State of Louisiana a memorial to honor the Buffalo Soldiers.

S. 652. An act to provide financial assistance for the rehabilitation of the Benjamin Franklin National Memorial in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the development of an exhibit to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin.

S. 1238. An act to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to provide for the conduct of projects that protect forests, and for other purposes.

S. 1310. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to allow the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation to increase the diameter of a natural gas pipeline located in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, to allow certain commercial vehicles to continue to use Route 209 within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, and to extend the termination date of the National Park System Advisory Board to January 1, 2007.

S. 1481. An act to amend the Indian Land Consolidation Act to provide for probate reform.

S. 1892. An act to amend Public Law 107-153 to modify a certain date.

S. 1988. An act to authorize the transfer of items in the War Reserves Stockpile for Al-
lies, Korea.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 23, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1281. An act to authorize the programs of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 28, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2167. An act to amend the USA PATRIOT Act to extend the sunset of certain